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## LINGUISTIC FAMILIES OF MEXICO

By OTIS T. MASON

In 1895 Alfonso L. Herrera and Ricardo E. Cicero published in the City of Mexico a *Catálogo de la Colección de Antropología del Museo Nacional*, in which will be found Pimentel's linguistic families and Orozco y Berra's list of tribes, more than seven hundred in all. In 1891 appeared Dr Brinton's *American Race*, in which, for the first time, he brought all the tribes of North America and South America into a system. The Bureau of American Ethnology in the same year issued Major Powell's *Linguistic Families of North America*, a model of philological taxonomy. In the last named paper the stocks of Mexico are not mentioned, but in the three works before us there is a starting point for systematic treatment of the tribes of that republic, in which the American Indian population is ten times greater than it ever was within the boundaries of the United States.

Orozco y Berra's list is valuable in that it assembles the names to date. The Bureau of American Ethnology has made an exhaustive synonymy of the United States and Canada, containing many thousands of terms; but there are duplicates, lost tribes, and those whose linguistic affiliations are not known, so that one-half of Orozco y Berra's long catalogue will eventually disappear.

Brinton's work is far in advance of anything before or since on the linguistic families of Mexico, and it is a pity that the author did not go a step further in the adoption of Major Powell's spelling of all family titles. I propose now to take that step and offer the following revision of Pimentel's table which makes the error that generic names shall connote all that the genus includes. A

denotive name is all that we need, coupled with a systematic spelling which shows on its surface whether a tribe, a speech, or a linguistic family is intended. I desire here to acknowledge the assistance of Dr A. S. Gatschet, without whose coöperation I should not venture to propose the scheme.

# LINGUISTIC FAMILIES OF MEXICO

<i>Pimentel's List.</i>	<i>List Proposed.</i>
Apache	Athapaskan
Chontal	Zapotecan (uncertain)
Guaicura y Cochimi-Laimon	Yuman
Hauve	Hauvan
Matlalzinga ó Pirinda	Otomian
Maya-Quiché	Mayan
Mexicana	Nahuan
Mixteca-Zapoteca	Zapotecan
Otomies	Otomian
Seri	Serian
Sonorense Ópata-Pima	Piman (or Nahuan)
Tarasca	Tarascan
Totonaca	Totonacan
Zogue-Mixe	Zoquean

The Apache are stragglers into northern Mexico. Chontal is a term of reproach and should not be used for a family designation.<sup>1</sup> Guaicura y Cochimi-Laimon is connotive, and the family title Yuman must take its place.<sup>2</sup> In Matlalzinga ó Pirinda we have the choice of two names, of which the latter is preferable, but this group is Otomian.<sup>3</sup> Mayan is the simplification of a double name. Nahuan, the most important family in the Western Hemisphere, is the southern branch of Buschmann's Uto-Aztekan (1859; also Gatschet, 1877, and Brinton, 1891). As the matter now stands, there are the Shoshonean tongues for the United States, the Piman for the Sonoran area, and the Nahuan

<sup>1</sup> Brinton, *American Race*, 1891, p. 146.

<sup>2</sup> Turner, Latham, Gatschet, in Powell, *Indian Linguistic Families*, 1891, p. 136.

<sup>3</sup> Brinton, op. cit., 1891, p. 136.

for the great southern group. They may be called separate families, or regarded at present as sub-families. The term Aztekan may be discarded in this connection, since it mixes ethnic and linguistic matters. The Serian has hitherto been regarded as a part of the Yuman family, but recent investigation of linguistic material collected by Mr McGee shows it to be clearly an independent stock. The other names proposed offer no difficulties.

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